II. CLAIMS

1. (Original) A franking system for printing a mail item with shipping charges and address comprising:

a franking meter constructed to calculate and apply shipping charges indicium onto mail items or label;

a user interface for entering security codes and address data and selecting addresses;

a security device constructed to verify the authenticity of entered security codes;

a digital printer capable of printing shipping charges indicium and address data on a mail item or label;

a communication interlink for accessing an external database containing accurate address data;

a control processor for controlling the operation of said postage meter, security device, printer, and communication interlink according to algorithms stored in a memory;

a memory operatively connected to said control processor for storing said algorithms, said algorithms adapted to provide at least a shipping function, an address function, and an accounting function; and

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wherein said memory is constructed to store a address data
available for printing and accounting data for said franking
meter.

2.   (Original) A franking system, according to claim 1, wherein
said address function includes communicating with an external
database of addresses and checking the accuracy of addresses
selected for printing on a mail item.

3.   (Original) A franking system, according to claim 1, wherein
said address data includes, destination information, routing,
delivery, and tracking codes.

4.   (Original) A franking system, according to claim 1, wherein
said memory is constructed to store customer accounts.

5.   (Original) A franking system, according to claim 1, wherein
said memory includes a read-only memory modules for storing
address data in process.

6.   (Original) A franking system, according to claim 1, wherein
said communication link is a modem for connecting to an Internet
server and said database of accurate address data is accessible
by means of said Internet server.

7.   (Original) A franking system, according to claim 1, wherein
said communication link is a modem for connecting to an third

party server and said database of accurate address data is accessible by means of a direct secure phone line.

8. (Original) A franking system, according to claim 1, wherein said communication link is constructed to connect to a personal digital assistant for connecting to the Internet.

9. (Original) A franking system, according to claim 1, wherein said communication link is constructed to connect to a personal computer for connecting to the Internet or third party server.

10. (Original) A method of operating a franking system comprising the steps of:

feeding a mail item to a printer;

entering security codes into a postal security device;

verifying the authenticity of said security codes;

if said security codes are authorized, selecting at least one address from an internal address database for application to said mail item;

verifying the accuracy of said selected address;

if said address is accurate, calculating the shipping charges and printing the mail item or label with shipping charge indicium and address data;

if said address is inaccurate, correcting said address, entering said corrected address in said internal database, and calculating the shipping charges and printing the mail item or label with shipping charge indicium and address data.

11. (Original) A method of operating a franking machine, according to claim 10, wherein the step of verifying the accuracy of said selected address further comprises the steps of:

communicating with an external database of accurate addresses; and

comparing said selected address with data from said external database to determine the accuracy of the selected address.

12. (Original) A method of operating a franking machine, according to claim 11, wherein said external database is accessible through an Internet server.

13. (Original) A method of operating a franking machine, according to claim 11, wherein said external database is accessible directly through a phone line.

14. (Original) A method of operating a franking machine, according to claim 10, wherein said address is printed in accordance with predetermined shipping forms.

15. (Original) A method of operating a franking machine, according to claim 11, wherein said address data includes, destination information, routing, delivery, and tracking codes.

16. (Original) A franking system, according to claim 1, wherein said memory further stores commercial shipping forms for use in printing said address on said mail item.